

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **Three Cited for Selling Alcohol to Minors**

### ***ABC Conducts Undercover Operation in Artesia to Reduce Underage Drinking***

**Artesia** - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted a minor decoy operation on October 15, 2007 in the city of Artesia and cited three persons for selling alcohol to a minor decoy. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation funded through the Minor Decoy Grant Program in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 15 separate retail licensees. Three businesses allowed the sale of alcohol to the decoy.

Those who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license where the sale of alcohol to a minor occurred. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.